

Good Afternoon,

My name is Shayna Wilson and I am an Advocate for the Deaf and Hard Hearing at Independence Unlimited here in Hartford, CT. I would first like to say thank you to the senators and those who hold legislative positions here in CT for the funding to make my position possible to help those individuals whom I have had the pleasure to serve over the past 4 months.

One of the reasons that I have found that the work that we do at the CILs is so very important is because the reoccurring complex needs that the members of the deaf and hard of hearing community face. We advocate for this population on several different issues to insure that they are counted among the citizens of CT.

The funding that is received is very important as Hartford is the leading region for deaf and Hard of Hearing consumers, with limited resources within the Hartford area for DHOH individual. Furthermore, funding to the CILs for the deaf and hard of hearing community helps to bridge the gap in education and interventions with other agencies in CT.